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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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SUBJECT Criticism of Czech Censorship and Government's Policies

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "As for the pictures of you and your wife, well, may I tell you what I think. I, unfortunately, am unable to express myself just as I think, for I cannot find proper words, but you seem to me such a contented couple and in the picture of you and your wife sitting on the sofa one can see the quietness and safety of an American home. This safety is one thing we badly miss --- you are not safe even in your home, you never know ---. I thank you for your warning

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it makes clear to me a lot of things. It also means that I must stick to common things in my letters and be careful of everything I write. On Friday I got also a nice warning from the Central Customs Office. Sometime ago I sent a few stamps to my friend and now I have them back with a letter from the Customs Office telling me that, for the last time, they were warning me about sending something without their permission and that next time they would take certain steps to prevent this. They also kept the envelope of the letter. It is a safe explanation of why so many letters get lost.

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2. "I am quite desperate for you sent me so much and I am not able to send you anything in return. I am really ashamed, I am ashamed even for the people who hindered me to get your parcels... I am so angry I cannot tell you how and the worst thing is you cannot apply to anybody. I did not get your Christmas greeting from November 28th. Oh, you see I am so tired of these methods. How far did we get from the Middle Ages when the people had to ask their feudal lords for permission to marry, to move to another place, to change a job, etc. When I wanted to marry five years

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ago I had to ask the military office for permission; when I wanted to find a flat I had to ask for the permission of the house office; even if you have your own (what is 'own' nowadays) house you have to accept the tenant the office sends you. Everything is planned, everything is for the common 'benefit' etc, etc. Words, words, words... Have you your own soul, your own opinions? Away with you! It is really very, very difficult and one has to look out all the time.

3. "One always finds a little hope in books. The four booklets I sent you, I am glad you got them, were, of course, printed before 1948. I have still more for you but due to little changed conditions I have to wait in sending them. I wonder if you got my letter sent you on December 9th? I really wonder if the office will pass it on.

4. "Well, dear friend, I am afraid I cannot tell you just now my opinion on world affairs and on the matters you described so well in your last letter. You see, I find myself obliged to stick to the proverb you told me: 'Discretion is the better part of valour'. Is it not so? I hope you understand me. In general, I have nothing against any people in the whole world, my sincere desire is not to go through another war.. I had enough of the last one.. I would only wish if nobody cared for me in such a way as he does. I have my own opinions, some other people are of different meaning but would it be correct if I said to all: 'My theory is the only correct one. What you think is bad, old fashioned, dangerous, it is a blunder and if you do not change your opinion at once you will see what we shall do with you. We shall teach you'. I hate people who can one day say 'This is blue' and on another day say 'How can you say it is blue, it is green' and if you do not say it is green you are an enemy, you are a secret agent, etc. It is a pity there are so many people of this kind here in this country. Well I think it would be much better to leave this sort of talking. It is very foolish, is it not?

5. "As for my vocation, well, I am a teacher.

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I had to adopt the title of the school for its original title is untranslatable. I do not like the work there as the building is very ugly and some are very slow in thinking.

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6. "Well I think I wrote you enough today..... I hope you get this letter in order - tell me whether it came controlled - and I hope to hear from you soon."

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